

Special Ends" will be found another illustration of what clergymen may sometimes accomplish in scientific study. His botanical researches gave him high credit as an observer. He has had his followers in America. The late Dr. Beadle, of Philadelphia, was an enthusiastic student of conchology. Dr. Henry McCook, of that city, has made a scientific reputation by his study of ants. He is a busy and faithful pastor of a flourishing church. But he has found in these studies of nature what has made him, I am sure, all the better a minister and all the broader a man. It strikes one a little oddly that both these American clergymen belong to the *city pastors*, where paved streets and brick walls seem to shut out nature effectually. Perhaps, however, this very fact led them to search out what immediate surroundings could not give. But the great body of our clergymen in rural parishes—Nature at their very doors in all her infinite varieties—why should there not be more Gilbert Whites in our Selbornes of the New World?

Here, however, a question must be asked and answered, *what kind of scientific study can ministers profitably engage in?* The answer must be, for most ministers, certainly, *general* not *special* studies. To be a scientific specialist in these days, demands an amount of training and of time which only the undisturbed, undivided energies of one life-time can meet. *Amateur* science is, we imagine, not held in great repute. Here and there we may find exceptions like Dr. McCosh and Dr. McCook. But science is an exacting master, and seems to demand all or none. Or, rather, she holds to the inspired saying, "No man can serve two masters." Besides, it is not the province nor the prerogative of ministers to extend the domain of science. They were not ordained for this. They had better leave special scientific investigations in the hands of those whose calling and responsibility it is to make them and give the world results. But it is a minister's business to secure some general knowledge of what is going on in the scientific world. If he has been through college, he has obtained a glimpse, probably, of what scientific progress has been made. Most Faculties have in them professors who impart the knowledge. Still, if the man who was graduated ten, fifteen or twenty years ago contents himself with this, he is making a great mistake. Science travels fast in these days, by means of the telegraph and telephone she has made. It will not be safe for the minister to quote from the pulpit what his scientific professors taught him ten or twenty years ago in the class-room. He should, however, try to keep pace with what is brought to light from day to day. There is a *general* scientific knowledge which is part of every well-furnished intellectual man. If our ministers, for example, have not read Prof. Young's book on the sun, or some similar modern work, and know little or nothing of what spectroscopic studies have taught us, they are culpable behind the times. Their ignorance is as culpable as if